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Biskra. Von Ludwig Finckh. 82 pp. and 8 photographs. Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, Stuttgart und Leipzig, 1906.

A tasteful little book both in its contents and its mechanical production. There are four short chapters on Corsica and thirteen on the many phases of Biskra, the famous oasis, health resort, and centre of date palms, where many tourists now get a glimpse of the Sahara, a whiff of its atmosphere and a little experience of its life. The guides of Biskra, the Arab market, the holy Marabout, the Negro settlement, traders, wine, women, and children and the spreading waste are among the topics. We have here a vivid series of impressions rather than a tangible setting forth of facts. It is good reading, and doubtless imparts accurate conceptions of Biskra without being, in any sense, a guide-book.

Ethnographic Notes in Southern India. By Edgar Thurston, Superintendent, Madras Government Museum. With 40 plates. Madras: Government Press, 1906.

This is a collection of eighteen essays relating to specific ethnological subjects, just those that are peculiarly characteristic of South-Indian cultures, like deformity and mutilation, torture in bygone days, and a few stray survivals, slavery, fire-making by friction, fire-walking, hook-swinging, infanticide, couvade, earth-eating, and boomerangs. Besides, marriage customs and death ceremonies are dealt with in fullest detail. Every ethnologist and culture-historian is indebted to this industrious author for his painstaking research and eager collecting of material and information which have heretofore been scattered and buried in official reports, manuals, gazetteers, journals, and other publications. It is well worthy a place in the library of every practical worker in this field.

B. L.

The Story of Oxford. By Cecil Headlam, xv+435, 47 Illustrations, and Index. J. M. Dent & Co., London, 1907. (\$1.50.)

With this book in hand a visitor to Oxford will enjoy a double charm. The rich individuality of this "sweet city of the dreaming spires" lends itself readily to the pen of a clear-sighted and accurate chronicler. Oxford is fortunate in having as historian and guide one who has imagination as well as insight, and a pleasant style as well as command of facts. He breathes life and interest into the driest events of history, and the dullest details of street and edifice. It is most interesting to note how a place whose life early centres around a University reflects in its growth all the characteristic phases of national social development.

Like many another town, its social life begins with the miracles and church building of its patron saint. At the start a religious flood nearly engulfs it. But the sturdy independence and common sense of the townsmen rebel, and the religious wave recedes. From this time Oxford begins its history as a University town. But its pulse beats with that of the country, and it takes its part in the religious and political conflicts of the nation. Names of great men are on its roll. More, Colet, Wycliffe, and Tyndale begin their work under the inspiration of the University. Kings and queens cajole and court it. The University town becomes the Court and the beleagured capital of the rejected Charles I. and the asylum of the exiled James. After the follies and vices of camp and Court are shaken off, it stands again as a bulwark against the frivolities of the new, and yet as a conservator of what is best in modern progress.